

1	2	3	4
Bihar	1	1	2
Madhya Pradesh	1	-	1
Assam	1	-	1
Tripura	-	1	1
Orissa	1	-	1
Grand Total	60	8	68

I Statewise Number of Jute Mills Closed

West Bengal	3
Bihar	1
U.P.	1

II No. of Jute Mills Running in Losses:

All the above 5 jute mills at (I) above were running at losses at the time of closing.

[English]

Recognition to National and Regional Parties

5526. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Election Commission has recommended sweeping changes in the present criteria for recognition of national and regional parties;

(b) if so, the main recommendations made in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for implementation of these recommendation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Losses suffered by MMTC as per audit investigations

5527. SHRI UTTAMSINGH PAWAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether audit investigations into deals made in the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation of India Ltd. have unearthed several cases where top officials were involved in either doling out favour to certain firms of causing heavy losses to the public exchequer;

(b) if so, the details of such cases including the losses, suffered in each case; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) The report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India for the year ending 31st March, 1996 has made few observations with regard to anomalies in the operation of gold schemes by MMTC under the Exim Policy. The report inter alia mentioned that foreign exchange amounting to Rs. 57.65 crores remained unrealised in respect of Gems and Jewellery exports.

(c) The Government has initiated action for verification of facts and for remedial measures, with the concerned agencies.

Rehabilitation of Heavy Engineering Corporation

5528. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have approved a proposal for rehabilitation of the Heavy Engineering Corporation (HEC);

(b) if so, whether this is the first sick Public Sector Undertaking for which the Government have provided funds;

(c) if so, the total public sector sick units at present; and

(d) the number of Public Sector Undertakings improving their profitability?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) 23 public sector undertakings under the Department of Heavy Industry are sick and have been referred to BIFR as per SICA. Out of these sick PSUs, BIFR has sanctioned revival schemes for 7 PSUs including Heavy Engineering Corporation Ltd. and necessary funds are being provided by the Government.

(d) Out of the 7 PSUs where BIFR have sanctioned revival schemes 3 PSUs namely Scooters India Ltd. (SIL), Richardson & Cruddas Ltd. (R & C) and Bharat Brakes & Valves Ltd. (BBVL) have achieved turnaround and have earned profits in 1996-97.

[Translation]

Production of Car

5529. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an increase in the production of cars in the country during the Eighth Five Year Plan period;

(b) if so, the total number of cars manufactured in the country during 1991-92 and the total number of cars manufactured indigenously during 1996-97;